

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**LAITRAM, L.L.C.  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT****P. O. Box 50699, New Orleans, LA 70150, U.S.A.  
Phone: 504-733-6000 Fax: 504-734-5233**

MAY 14 2004

OFFICIAL

**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

DATE: May 14, 2004 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
TO: USPTO YOUR REF: 10/605,367  
FROM: James T. Cronvich OUR REF: 2228.0  
BY: James T. Cronvich FAX: 703-872-9306  
TOTAL # OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 5

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED LEGIBLE COPIES OF ALL PAGES.

## MESSAGE:

## Contents:

1. Transmittal Form with Certificate of Fax Transmission
2. Response (3 pages)

  
James T. Cronvich  
Reg. 33163

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This facsimile transmission (and/or the documents accompanying it) may contain confidential information belonging to the sender and protected by the attorney-client privilege. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify us by telephone to arrange for return of the documents.

## Subsidiaries:

LAITRAM MACHINERY, INC. INTRALOX, INC. LAPEYRE STAIR, INC. LAITRAM MACHINE SHOP, L.L.C.  
*Food Processing Machinery Plastic Conveyor Belts Space-Saving Stairs Precision-Machined Components*

PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006, DMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/605,367	
	Filing Date	03/25/2003	
	First Named Inventor	VERDIGETS	
	Art Unit	3851	
	Examiner Name	RIDLEY, Richard	
Total Number of Pages In This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	2228.0

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks		
<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>		
Firm or Individual name	James T. Cronvich Reg. 33163	
Signature	<i>James T. Cronvich</i>	
Date	May 14, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.		
Typed or printed name	James T. Cronvich	
Signature	<i>James T. Cronvich</i>	Date May 14, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 14 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re the application of:

Christopher J. Verdigets et al.

Docket No.: 2228.0

Serial Number: 10/605,367

Examiner: Richard Ridley

Filed: 09/25/2003

Group Art Unit: 3651

FOR: SELF-CLOSING HINGE ROD RETENTION IN MODULAR PLASTIC CONVEYOR  
BELTS

**Response to Office Action**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004, please consider the following  
remarks. This submission includes the following section:

Remarks (Page 2)